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A Nationwide Study of Prevalence Rates and Characteristics of 199 Chronic Conditions in Denmark

Michael Falk Hvidberg¹ · Soeren Paaske Johnsen² · Michael Davidsen³ · Lars Ehlers¹

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Abstract

Background Real-world data of disease prevalence represents an important but underutilised source of evidence for health economic modelling.

Aims The aim of this study was to estimate nationwide prevalence rates and summarise the characteristics of 199 chronic conditions using Danish population-based health registers, to provide an off-the-shelf tool for decision makers and researchers.

Methods The study population comprised all Danish residents aged 16 years or above on 1 January 2013 ($n=4,555,439$). The study was based on the linkage of national registers covering hospital contacts, contacts with primary care (including general practitioners) and filled-in out-of-hospital prescriptions.

Results A total of 65.6% had one or more chronic condition. The ten conditions with the highest degree of prevalence were hypertension (23.3%), respiratory allergy (18.5%), disorders of lipoprotein metabolism (14.3%), depression (10.0%), bronchitis (9.2%), asthma (7.9%), type 2 diabetes (5.3%), chronic obstructive lung disease (4.7%), osteoarthritis of the knee (3.9%) and finally osteoporosis (3.5%) and ulcers (3.5%) in joint tenth place. Characteristics by gender, age and national geographical differences were also presented.

Conclusions A nationwide catalogue of the prevalence rates and characteristics of patients with chronic conditions based on a nationwide population is provided. The prevalence rates of the 199 conditions provide important information on the burden of disease for use in healthcare planning, as well as for economic, aetiological and other research.

1 Introduction

Worldwide, the financial pressures on healthcare providers are increasing. To control the rising cost of healthcare, decision makers need access to real-world evidence of current treatment patterns [1, 2]. Real-world evidence of disease prevalence is important for estimating the burden of disease, cost of illness, and budget impact of new health technologies

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Key Points for Decision Makers

Real-world evidence of disease prevalence is important for estimating the burden of disease, cost of illness and budget impact of new health technologies.

The Danish civil registration number provides a unique opportunity to link different types of register data for an individual patient, thus providing the best possible information on the actual treatment of chronic diseases.

Nationwide register-based prevalence statistics for 199 chronic diseases show, for most disease areas, a higher current treatment level than that expected from epidemiological research. In 2013, almost two-thirds of the entire Danish population aged 16 years or above either had a hospital diagnosis or had been in medical treatment for one or more chronic condition.

[3, 4]. In addition, it is important to obtain unbiased, independent documentation of disease burden, as there may be concerns with the cost-of-illness studies funded by companies [5].

The burden of chronic diseases is increasing rapidly in most countries. In Denmark, approximately 30–50% of the adult population have one or more chronic condition or long-standing illness [6–10]. Moreover, the burdens of chronic conditions are increasing [11–20]. The numbers and expenditure are growing along with an ageing population, and up to 80% of total healthcare costs can be attributed to chronic conditions [21–24]. Thus, the need for reliable and affordable estimates of the prevalence and disease burden of chronic conditions to guide decision-making in healthcare is increasing [24–26].

There are different ways to measure the prevalence of chronic conditions, varying from community-based health surveys and screening investigations to register-based studies. The choice of definitions and methods naturally affects which patients are included and hence the prevalence [27, 28].

The Scandinavian countries have an established tradition of documenting the diseases and hospital treatments of the entire population in registers; however, the registers have primarily been used to study individual conditions rather than to assess the total burden of chronic conditions [7, 24, 26, 29–34], or to forecast drug spending to help with decision-making [35, 36].

The aim of the present study was to estimate the national prevalence rates and to summarise the characteristics of 199 chronic conditions using the complete Danish population aged 16 and above. To the best of the authors' knowledge, the current study is the most comprehensive, independent register-based attempt to estimate the full-population prevalence-based disease burden of chronic diseases.

2 Methods

2.1 Study Population

The nationwide study population and cohort consisted of 4,555,439 Danish residents who were alive and aged 16 years or above on 1 January 2013, of which 49.2% were men.

2.2 The Registers

In Scandinavian countries, general practitioners (GPs) and hospitals have a long-standing tradition of reporting diseases, treatments, medications and other treatment-related information. This is done at the micro level for national health registers. Register data are collected mostly for public

administration such as claims and management, surveillance and control functions [37]. The comprehensiveness, scope and population completeness are unique to Denmark and other Scandinavian countries, enabling individual linkage across registers by means of the individual personal identification number assigned to each person [38]. The main register used was the Danish National Patient Register (NPR) [39], including the Danish Psychiatric Central Research Register [40], containing treating-physician-reported International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) hospital diagnoses. Moreover, to ensure the inclusion of patients not treated in hospitals, the National Health Service Register (NHSR) [41] and National Prescription Registry (TNPR) [42] were included in the study, since the NPR did not include diagnosis data from private specialist doctors or GPs. The NHSR contains data collected primarily for administrative purposes from health contractors in primary healthcare. It includes information about citizens, providers and health services, but minimal clinical information. Furthermore, the TNPR, comprising all prescribed and distributed medicines outside hospitals, was included to ensure the best possible identification of conditions and the representativeness thereof by clinical recommendation. All registers had a unique civil registration number for each person; furthermore, birth date, gender and other information were derived from the Danish Civil Registration System [43]. The registers used are described in more detail in other studies [44, 45]. Table 1 summarises the details of the registers used.

2.3 The Definition of a 'Chronic Condition', Clinical Ratification and Review

A thorough description of the distinct phases and methods used are provided elsewhere [44–46]. In short, a 'chronic condition' was defined in line with previous studies, i.e. the 'condition had lasted or was expected to last twelve or more months and resulted in functional limitations and/or the need for functional limitations and/or the need for ongoing medical care' [47–49]. An expert panel consisting of professors, medical specialists and other experts from Aalborg University, the Clinical Institute of Aalborg University at Aalborg University Hospital, the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Aarhus University Hospital, and others was consulted using the Delphi method in order to identify which of the approximately 22,000 ICD-10 codes and conditions could be considered 'chronic' based on the definition [44]. The ICD-10 codes were aggregated to 199 conditions, yet several conditions included subgroups of ICD-10 codes; thus, some consequently contained multiple conditions within the same disease area. Subsequently, all ICD-10 conditions considered chronic by definition were included in the study in pursuit of comprising the full-population burden of chronic

Table 1 The registers used and characteristics of the selected population in summary

Registry	Years of registry use	Population	Contains
The National Patient Register [39]	1994–2012	All somatic hospital-treated in/outpatients. Primary, secondary and additional diagnosis for patients aged 16 years or above	ICD-10 diagnosis codes for all public and private hospital-treated patients for every contact and treatment for the entire population as well as a civil registration number. Furthermore, data from all hospital treatments/procedures/operations for all hospital-treated patients as well as a civil registration number
The Danish Psychiatric Central Research Register [40]	1995–2012	All psychiatric hospital-treated in/outpatients. Primary, secondary and additional diagnosis for patients aged 16 years or above	ICD-10 diagnosis codes for all public hospital-treated patients for every contact and treatment for the entire population as well as a civil registration number. No private psychiatric hospital exists
The National Health Service Register [41]	2000–2012	All patients in primary care aged 16 years or above	All GP services for whole population and every consultation based on civil registration number. The register does not contain information on diagnosis, but many services are disease-specific and can thus be used for identifying chronic conditions
The Danish National Prescription Registry [42]	1995–2012	All patients in primary care with a prescription who are aged 16 years or above	All Danish medicine prescriptions sold for the entire population using 6-digit ATC codes as well as a civil registration number
The Danish Civil Registration System [43]	2013	Whole population aged 16 years or above resident in Denmark on 1 January 2014	Data regarding birth date, age, gender, etc. for the entire population as well as a civil registration number

ATC Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System, GP general practitioner, ICD-10 International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision

conditions. Consequently, the 199 conditions consisted of several ICD-10 codes and thus groups of illnesses.

2.4 Data Collection: The Basis of the Data Algorithms

Since many chronic conditions last longer than the defined 12 months, but do not last for a lifetime, the varying ‘chronicity’ of conditions was divided into four groups of severity [44]:

- Category I: stationary to progressive chronic conditions (no time limit equals inclusion time going back from the time of interest for as long as valid data were available. In the current study, this starting point was defined by the introduction of the ICD-10 diagnosis coding in Denmark, in 1994).
- Category II: stationary to diminishing chronic conditions (10 years from register inclusion time to the time of interest).
- Category III: diminishing chronic conditions (5 years from register inclusion time to the time of interest).
- Category IV: borderline chronic conditions (2 years from register inclusion time to the time of interest).

The above four categories were designed to include the different chronic conditions when registers covered several years and still have the best possible clinical certainty that the conditions were still existing at the fixed time point of 1 January 2013. All 199 chronic conditions were divided into one of the four categories by medical specialists and experts. An algorithm was created for data collection based on the four categories, as seen in Fig. 1 for all 199 conditions and coherent ICD-10 codes. However, 35 of the 199 chronic conditions were not considered by experts to be properly representative using solely NPR diagnosis data. Thus, they created more complex algorithms using several registers besides diagnosis data, ranging from medicine and hospital treatments to GP services. For example, medicine and coherent indication codes were used to identify people with depression without a hospital diagnosis, and only when the indication codes identified the medicine used for depression, and not others such as pain treatment, etc. The same applied

to GP services indicating, for example, diabetes or chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD) treatment, etc., where no hospital diagnosis was found. The details of all 199 unique definitions, their categorisation into one of the four categories and algorithms for replication can be found elsewhere [44, 45].

2.5 Statistical Analysis

Prevalence estimates were calculated in both per cent and per 1000 subjects; the proportion was calculated as the number of conditions identified divided by the total number of residents aged 16 years or above alive on 1 January 2013 ($n=4,555,439$) multiplied by either 100 or 1000. Thus, prevalence was calculated from a specific point in time, based on the above inclusion time periods back in time for each condition. See Fig. 1 or further details in the literature [44].

The prevalence proportions for all conditions were stratified and presented by age and sex for use by, for example, local authorities, health planners and national researchers.

Direct standardisation of age, gender and education based on the national average (i.e. using Denmark as the standard/reference population for age, gender and education) [50] was applied to illustrate differences free of basic socio-economic effects (presented in brackets in Tables 2 and 3 and the electronic supplementary material). The gender and age (10-year intervals) variables were obtained from the Danish Civil Registration System [43], and the educational variables were obtained from the Population Education Register using Danish Education Nomenclature (DUN) classification [51].

Finally, tables were stratified geographically in the five national regions, and the mean age and standard deviation (SD) for each condition were calculated, but due to size and relevance for the international reader, geographical regions, mean age and SDs are presented in the electronic supplementary material.

All data management and data analysis were performed in SAS 9.4 (from Statistics Denmark’s research servers).

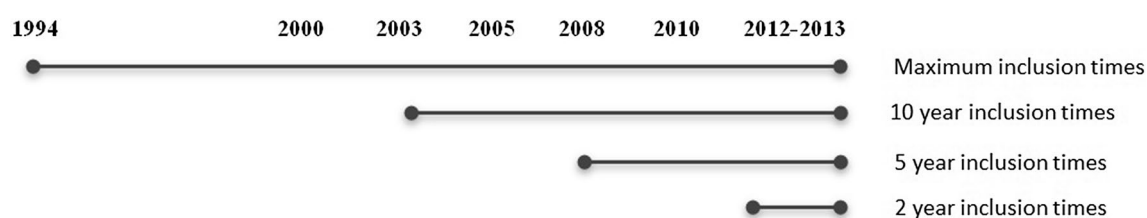


Fig. 1 The four categories of chronicity and the inclusion time periods

Table 2 Overview of disease prevalence in Denmark: number of patients, prevalence rate (per 1000), age and gender (per cent within gender) of *disease groups* of conditions and chosen medicine for Denmark at 1 January 2013

Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence						
		Denmark			Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75 + (per 1000)
		<i>N</i>	Per 1000 (standardised)					
B—Viral hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	B18, B20–B24	8813	1.9	(2.0)	65.3	1.8	2.4	0.3
C—Malignant neoplasms	C00–C99; D32–D33; D35.2–D35.4; D42–D44	229,331	50.3	(50.4)	43.3	10.2	69.4	155.8
D—In situ and benign neoplasms, and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour and diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	D00–D09; D55–D59; D60–D67; D80–D89	116,560	25.6	(25.7)	36.3	13.2	27.3	80.1
E—Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	E00–E14; E20–E29; E31–35; E70–E78; E84–E85; E88–E89	877,433	192.6	(192.7)	45.6	43.5	279.6	501.4
G—Diseases of the nervous system	G00–G14; G20–G32; G35–G37; G40–47; G50–64; G70–73; G80–G83; G90–G99	561,054	123.2	(123.5)	40.1	70.6	162.2	188.6
H—Diseases of the eye and adnexa and diseases of the ear and mastoid process	H02–H06; H17–H18; H25–H28; H31–H32; H34–H36; H40–55; H57; H80, H810; H93, H90–H93	448,176	98.4	(98.6)	47.5	25.6	112.6	394.4
I—Diseases of the circulatory system	I05–I06; I10–28; I30–33; I36–141; I44–I52; I60–I88; I90–I94; I96–I99	1,254,427	275.4	(275.5)	45.3	73.3	381.5	753.9
J—Diseases of the respiratory system	J30.1; J40–J47; J60–J84; J95, J97–J99	1,210,598	265.7	(266.3)	42.1	209.3	298.8	381.9
K—Diseases of the digestive system	K25–K27; K40, K43, K50–52; K58–K59; K71–K77; K86–K87	329,337	72.3	(72.6)	44.7	41.3	86.3	157.4
L—Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	L40	65,469	14.4	(14.5)	47.8	7.9	19.3	21.7
M—Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	M01–M25; M30–M36; M40–M54; M60.1–M99	1,032,808	226.7	(227.1)	42.2	113.2	291.2	470.5
N—Diseases of the genitourinary system	N18	20,162	4.4	(4.5)	59.4	1.0	4.8	20.0
Q—Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	Q00–Q56; Q60–Q99	124,898	27.4	(27.5)	41.7	33.9	23.2	16.2
F—Mental and behavioural disorders	F00–99	683,194	150.0	(150.7)	41.0	135.2	150.2	223.7
Having one or more chronic condition		2,989,441	656.2	(657.2)	45.5	480.5	771.5	953.9
Mean number of chronic conditions (std. dev)		2.2 (2.8)	–	–	2.0 (2.6)	1.1 (1.6)	2.7 (2.8)	5.3 (3.6)
Depression medicine ^{c,**}	ATC: N06A	529,918	116.3	(116.7)	36.3	88.7	126.9	201.9
Antipsychotic medicine ^{c,**}	ATC: N05A	138,625	30.4	(30.6)	45.7	26.1	31.9	44.8
Indication prescribed anxiety medicine ^{c,**}	All prescriptions with either indication code 163 (for anxiety) or 371 (for anxiety, addictive)	102,568	22.5	(22.6)	34.5	19.9	23.7	30.1
Heart failure medication ^{c,**}	ATC: C01AA05, C03, C07 or C09A with indication code 430 (for heart failure)	7468	1.6	(1.7)	64.6	0.1	2.0	7.5
Ischaemic heart medication ^{c,**}	ATC: C01A, C01B, C01D, C01E	129,484	28.4	(28.5)	51.8	1.4	32.0	147.3

Table 2 (continued)

Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence				
		Denmark		Men	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)
		<i>N</i>	Per 1000 (standardised)	Per cent		Age 75+ (per 1000)
All of the five types of medicine above		688,006	151.0 (151.6)	40.4	100.2	166.1

Standardised rates or standard deviations in brackets

See table with 10-year age intervals in Supplementary Material 2 in the electronic supplementary material

Conditions marked 'A' overlap with other conditions and are thus not counted twice [44]

ATC Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System, ICD-10 International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision

^cComplex defined conditions; see reference for further details [44]

**Two-year prevalence

3 Results

3.1 The Prevalence Rates

The population's full burden of chronic disease, with all the chronic conditions summarised, was 65.6% (see Table 2 or Table 3). The ten most prevalent conditions were hypertension (23.3%), respiratory allergy (18.5%), disorders of lipoprotein metabolism (14.3%), depression (10.0%), bronchitis (9.2%), asthma (7.9%), type 2 diabetes (5.3%), COPD (4.7%), osteoarthritis of the knee (3.9%) and osteoporosis (3.5%)/ulcer (3.5%); see the overview of conditions solely by overall disease groups in Table 2 and all 199 conditions in Table 3.

In general, prevalence naturally increases with increasing age across most conditions (see also Supplementary Material 2 and 6 with 10-year age intervals). Moreover, patients are relatively older within cancers and endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and diseases of the circulatory system, the eye and adnexa, the ear and mastoid process, and the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue compared to within other conditions. A relatively younger patient population is seen within diseases of the respiratory system (especially allergies and asthma) and mental- and behavioural disorders. Mental disorders actually show a decrease in prevalence in later life. The conditions with the youngest population are, for example, seen within human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis.

Gender differences are seen across conditions, where women are overrepresented within most conditions—except, for example, heart failure and ischaemic heart diseases, stroke, some cancers, diabetes, disturbances in lipoprotein circulation and other lipids, inguinal hernia, hearing loss such as tinnitus, chronic renal failure, sleep disorders, schizophrenia, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol, and others. Coherently, women are treated more

often than men with medication, except for ischaemic heart medications.

Some further characteristics and differences between conditions are seen and described in Supplementary Material 1–6. This includes geographic regional tables, further age characteristics with mean age and SD, more age intervals, further comments on common selected conditions and regional differences, etc.

4 Discussion

Based on the present findings, almost two-thirds of the entire Danish population aged 16 years or above have one or more chronic condition. Seen in the context of previous studies, this is around 10–20 percentage points higher than several other Danish studies [6, 7] as well as international studies [27, 28]. The overall estimates are also twice the official estimates of the Danish National Board of Health [8]. However, both national and international comparisons are difficult due to differences in methodology and data possibilities, so estimates should be compared with caution. For example, some American studies report that about 50% of the US population has a chronic condition [52, 53], but reliable overall estimates are difficult to obtain as to why improvement has been recommended [17]. Furthermore, as the US often has higher disease prevalence than the EU—often differing by 20–100% across different conditions [54]—the present study suggests that the US estimates might be even higher.

4.1 Strengths and Limitations

The strength of this study is the detailed, full nationwide register-based collection and categorisation of all data on actual chronic conditions and treatments for Danes in public

Table 3 Disease prevalence of 199 chronic conditions: number of patients treated, prevalence rate (per 1000), age and gender (per cent within gender) of all conditions and chosen medicine for Denmark at 1 January 2013

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
B—Viral hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease								
B18, B20–B24			8813	1.9 (2.0)	65.3	1.8	2.4	0.3
1	Chronic viral hepatitis	B18	4584	1.0 (1.0)	60.1	1.0	1.2	0.1
2	Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease	B20–24	4229	0.9 (0.9)	71.0	0.8	1.2	0.1
C—Malignant neoplasms			229,331	50.3 (50.4)	43.3	10.2	69.4	155.8
3	Malignant neoplasms of other and unspecified localisations	C00–C14; C30–C33; C37–C42; C45–C49; C69; C73–74; C754–C759	20,557	4.5 (4.6)	53.5	1.3	6.6	10.1
4	Malignant neoplasms of digestive organs	C15–C17; C22–C26	4839	1.1 (1.1)	59.5	0.1	1.6	3.4
5	Malignant neoplasm of colon	C18	18,826	4.1 (4.1)	47.0	0.2	4.9	20.3
6	Malignant neoplasms of rectosigmoid junction, rectum, anus and anal canal	C19–C21	10,680	2.3 (2.3)	55.4	0.1	3.2	9.5
7	Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	C34	14,762	3.2 (3.3)	49.4	0.2	4.8	10.6
8	Malignant melanoma of skin	C43	19,636	4.3 (4.3)	42.6	2.0	5.7	9.0
9	Other malignant neoplasms of skin	C44	15,597	3.4 (3.4)	51.2	0.3	3.9	16.7
10	Malignant neoplasm of breast	C50	50,687	11.1 (11.1)	0.7	1.0	17.6	29.5
11	Malignant neoplasms of female genital organs	C51–C52; C56–C58	7245	1.6 (1.6)	–	0.3	2.4	3.9
12	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri, corpus uteri and part unspecified	C53–C55	11,608	2.5 (2.5)	0.0	0.7	3.5	7.1
13	Malignant tumour of male genitalia	C60, C62–C63	5194	1.1 (1.1)	99.9	1.2	1.2	0.7
14	Malignant neoplasm of prostate	C61	26,697	5.9 (5.9)	100.0	0.0	7.5	27.0
15	Malignant neoplasms of urinary tract	C64–C68	10,319	2.3 (2.3)	71.2	0.1	2.9	9.9
16	Brain cancer ^c	C71, C75.1–C75.3, D33.0–D33.2, D35.2–D35.4, D43.0–D43.2, D44.3–D44.5 (brain). C70, D32, D42 (brain membrane). C72, D33.3–D33.9, D43.3–D43.9 (cranial nerve, spinal cord)	15,310	3.4 (3.4)	52.9	1.4	4.7	6.2
17	Malignant neoplasms of ill-defined, secondary and unspecified sites, and of independent (primary) multiple sites	C76–C80, C97	25,619	5.6 (5.6)	43.0	1.2	8.4	14.0
18	Malignant neoplasms, stated or presumed to be primary, of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	C81–C96	19,712	4.3 (4.3)	54.4	1.5	5.6	12.4
D—In situ and benign neoplasms, and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour and diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism			116,560	25.6 (25.7)	36.3	13.2	27.3	80.1

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
19	In situ neoplasms	D00–D09	19,810	4.3 (4.4)	20.0	2.5	5.5	7.9
20	Haemolytic anaemias	D55–D59	3055	0.7 (0.7)	33.7	0.7	0.6	1.2
21	Aplastic and other anaemias	D60–D63	14,918	3.3 (3.3)	40.2	0.9	3.3	15.0
22	Other anaemias	D64	46,613	10.2 (10.3)	38.7	2.3	9.7	53.1
23	Coagulation defects, purpura and other haemorrhagic conditions	D65–D69	25,376	5.6 (5.6)	37.4	5.2	5.7	7.1
24	Other diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	D70–D77	8896	2.0 (2.0)	43.5	1.0	2.6	3.6
25	Certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	D80–D89	7660	1.7 (1.7)	50.8	1.4	2.0	1.3
	E—Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	E00–E14; E20–E29; E31–35; E70–E78; E84–E85; E88–E89	877,433	192.6 (192.7)	45.6	43.5	279.6	501.4
26	Diseases of the thyroid ^c	E00–E04, E06, E07	131,908	29.0 (29.0)	15.9	11.3	39.1	66.2
27	Thyrotoxicosis ^c	E05	41,374	9.1 (9.0)	18.3	3.8	10.8	26.7
28	Diabetes type 1 ^c	E10	23,062	5.1 (5.1)	57.9	4.9	5.6	3.5
29	Diabetes type 2 ^c	E11	242,177	53.2 (53.3)	53.0	8.5	77.9	152.1
30	Diabetes others ^c	E12–E14	1117	0.2 (0.2)	48.6	0.2	0.3	0.5
31	Disorders of other endocrine glands	E20–E35, except E30	28,650	6.3 (6.4)	28.6	6.5	5.6	8.9
32	Metabolic disorders	E70–E77; E79–E83; E85, E88–E89;	23,690	5.2 (5.2)	36.6	3.7	6.1	8.2
33	Disturbances in lipoprotein circulation and other lipids ^c	E78	652,242	143.2 (143.1)	51.1	11.8	221.2	408.1
34	Cystic fibrosis ^c	E84	947	0.2 (0.2)	41.9	0.3	0.1	0.1
	G—Diseases of the nervous system	G00–G14; G20–G32; G35–G37; G40–47; G50–64; G70–73; G80–G83; G90–G99	561,054	123.2 (123.5)	40.1	70.6	162.2	188.6
35	Inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system	G00–G09	7642	1.7 (1.7)	50.1	1.3	2.0	2.2
36	Systemic atrophies primarily affecting the central nervous system and other degenerative diseases	G10–G14, G30–G32	10,401	2.3 (2.3)	46.8	0.4	2.2	12.1
37	Parkinson's disease ^c	G20, G21, G22, F02.3	57,583	12.6 (12.6)	43.7	4.1	16.3	37.3
38	Extrapyramidal and movement disorders	G23–G26	10,837	2.4 (2.4)	41.8	1.1	2.9	6.4
39	Sclerosis	G35	13,284	2.9 (2.9)	30.6	1.9	4.2	1.5
40	Demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system	G36–G37	4571	1.0 (1.0)	34.7	0.9	1.3	0.4
41	Epilepsy ^c	G40–G41	61,695	13.5 (13.6)	48.2	9.7	16.0	20.3
42	Migraine ^c	G43	149,866	32.9 (33.0)	18.6	24.9	44.1	15.6
43	Other headache syndromes	G44	16,469	3.6 (3.6)	35.9	4.0	3.6	1.8

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
44	Transient cerebral ischaemic attacks and related syndromes and vascular syndromes of brain in cerebrovascular diseases	G45–G46	43,977	9.7 (9.7)	53.5	1.1	12.7	37.6
45	Sleep disorders	G47	36,806	8.1 (8.1)	73.5	4.1	12.6	5.0
46	Disorders of trigeminal nerve and facial nerve disorders	G50–G51	21,488	4.7 (4.7)	43.0	2.8	6.0	7.4
47	Disorders of other cranial nerves, cranial nerve disorders in diseases classified elsewhere, nerve root and plexus disorders and nerve root and plexus compressions in diseases classified elsewhere	G52–G55	12,429	2.7 (2.7)	48.9	1.3	4.0	3.6
48	Mononeuropathies of upper limb	G56	122,395	26.9 (26.9)	37.2	12.6	39.1	36.5
49	Mononeuropathies of lower limb, other mononeuropathies and mononeuropathy in diseases classified elsewhere	G57–G59	18,627	4.1 (4.1)	43.8	1.9	6.1	5.0
50	Polyneuropathies and other disorders of the peripheral nervous system	G60–G64	30,289	6.6 (6.7)	56.4	1.7	9.3	18.2
51	Diseases of myoneural junction and muscle	G70–G73	5758	1.3 (1.3)	47.7	0.9	1.5	1.6
52	Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes	G80–G83	14,410	3.2 (3.2)	53.9	2.9	3.5	3.2
53	Other disorders of the nervous system	G90–G99	44,394	9.7 (9.8)	46.4	5.9	12.1	17.0
	H—Diseases of the eye and adnexa and diseases of the ear and mastoid process	H02–H06; H17–H18; H25–H28; H31–H32; H34–H36; H40–55; H57; H80, H810; H93, H90–H93	448,176	98.4 (98.6)	47.5	25.6	112.6	394.4
54	Disorders of eyelid, lacrimal system and orbit	H02–H06	13,191	2.9 (2.9)	37.3	0.9	4.0	7.5
55	Corneal scars and opacities	H17	2173	0.5 (0.5)	58.1	0.2	0.5	1.3
56	Other disorders of cornea	H18	9473	2.1 (2.1)	43.5	1.0	2.1	7.4
57	Diseases of the eye lens (cataracts)	H25–H28	68,009	14.9 (15.1)	40.5	0.5	15.6	84.8
58	Disorders of the choroid and retina	H31–H32	1900	0.4 (0.4)	48.3	0.2	0.5	1.1
59	Retinal vascular occlusions	H34	10,358	2.3 (2.3)	50.8	0.2	2.6	11.4
60	Other retinal disorders	H35	68,485	15.0 (15.1)	40.2	1.6	13.0	93.7
61	Retinal disorders in diseases classified elsewhere	H36	19,279	4.2 (4.3)	58.7	1.7	6.1	7.4
62	Glaucoma ^c	H40–H42	67,310	14.8 (14.9)	43.5	1.2	16.2	76.4
63	Disorders of the vitreous body and globe	H43–H45	7572	1.7 (1.7)	44.6	0.7	2.4	3.1
64	Disorders of optic nerve and visual pathways	H46–H48	6184	1.4 (1.4)	39.0	1.2	1.6	1.4
65	Disorders of ocular muscles, binocular movement, accommodation and refraction	H49–H52	18,247	4.0 (4.0)	45.4	4.3	3.9	2.8
66	Visual disturbances	H53	22,232	4.9 (4.9)	45.7	2.6	5.9	11.1

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
67	Blindness and partial sight	H54	6614	1.5 (1.5)	44.4	0.6	1.5	5.6
68	Nystagmus and other irregular eye movements and other disorders of eye and adnexa	H55, H57	11,133	2.4 (2.5)	40.3	1.7	3.0	3.7
69	Otosclerosis	H80	10,360	2.3 (2.3)	35.7	0.8	3.1	5.4
70	Ménière's disease ^c	H810	10,003	2.2 (2.2)	43.0	0.4	3.0	7.3
71	Other diseases of the inner ear	H83	29,865	6.6 (6.3)	91.8	0.6	9.0	24.5
72	Conductive and sensorineural hearing loss	H90	43,238	9.5 (9.6)	48.7	3.7	11.3	29.5
73	Other hearing loss and other disorders of ear, not elsewhere classified	H910, H912, H913, H918, H930, H932, H933	8306	1.8 (1.8)	53.0	0.7	2.3	5.2
74	Presbycusis (age-related hearing loss)	H911	80,659	17.7 (17.6)	48.9	0.4	9.6	147.4
75	Hearing loss, unspecified	H919	87,806	19.3 (19.3)	55.3	3.0	24.5	74.5
76	Tinnitus	H931	40,124	8.8 (8.7)	58.4	2.5	13.4	17.5
77	Other specified disorders of ear	H938	20,537	4.5 (4.4)	48.1	0.8	5.9	16.1
	I—Diseases of the circulatory system	I05–I06; I10–28; I30–33; I36–141; I44–I52; I60–I88; I90–I94; I96–I99	1,254,427	275.4 (275.5)	45.3	73.3	381.5	753.9
78	Aortic and mitral valve disease ^c	I05, I06, I34, I35	30,123	6.6 (6.6)	50.9	0.7	6.4	37.7
79	Hypertensive diseases ^c	I10–I15	1,060,046	232.7 (232.7)	44.6	41.8	330.8	695.8
80	Heart failure ^c	I11.0, I13.0, I13.2, I42.0, I42.6, I42.7, I42.9, I50.0, I50.1, I50.9	37,540	8.2 (8.3)	63.5	0.7	9.5	40.3
80A	Ischaemic heart diseases	I20–I25	139,173	30.6 (30.7)	60.2	2.6	41.8	114.5
81	Angina pectoris	I20	78,476	17.2 (17.3)	58.4	1.6	25.7	53.0
82	Acute myocardial infarction and subsequent myocardial infarction	I21–I22	36,654	8.0 (8.1)	66.6	0.7	11.1	29.8
83	AMI complex/other	I23–I24	2969	0.7 (0.7)	61.3	0.1	0.9	2.3
84	Chronic ischaemic heart disease	I25	84,592	18.6 (18.6)	64.7	0.8	23.8	81.4
85	Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation	I26–I28	15,352	3.4 (3.4)	44.8	1.0	3.8	13.0
86	Acute pericarditis	I30	5563	1.2 (1.2)	73.1	1.0	1.4	1.3
87	Other forms of heart disease	I31–I43, except I34–I35 and I42	8,119	1.8 (1.8)	60.5	0.7	2.1	5.4
88	Atrioventricular and left bundle branch block	I44	14,604	3.2 (3.2)	58.7	0.4	2.7	20.0
89	Other conduction disorders	I45–46	11,823	2.6 (2.6)	59.6	1.0	2.8	9.5
90	Paroxysmal tachycardia	I47	39,510	8.7 (8.7)	48.1	3.3	11.0	23.9
91	Atrial fibrillation and flutter	I48	112,342	24.7 (24.7)	57.2	1.7	26.5	132.0
92	Other cardiac arrhythmias	I49	34,418	7.6 (7.6)	47.9	2.2	8.7	28.8

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
93	Complications and ill-defined descriptions of heart disease and other heart disorders in diseases classified elsewhere	I51–52	7337	1.6 (1.6)	50.3	0.6	1.8	5.7
94	Stroke	I60, I61, I63–I64, Z501 (rehabilitation)	72,606	15.9 (16.0)	54.2	1.6	19.8	68.7
95	Cerebrovascular diseases	I62, I65–I68	17,308	3.8 (3.8)	51.1	0.8	4.9	13.3
96	Sequelae of cerebrovascular disease	I69	50,952	11.2 (11.2)	52.5	0.8	12.7	55.9
97	Atherosclerosis	I70	32,064	7.0 (7.0)	53.6	0.4	8.3	34.2
98	Aortic aneurysm and aortic dissection	I71	10,296	2.3 (2.3)	72.2	0.1	2.6	11.2
99	Diseases of arteries, arterioles and capillaries	I72, I74, I77–I79	11,830	2.6 (2.6)	45.6	1.0	3.4	6.2
100	Other peripheral vascular diseases	I73	28,508	6.3 (6.3)	54.8	0.7	8.3	24.4
101	Phlebitis, thrombosis of the portal vein and others	I80–I82	37,388	8.2 (8.3)	45.5	3.5	10.2	22.2
102	Varicose veins of lower extremities	I83	23,530	5.2 (5.2)	30.6	3.2	6.8	6.6
103	Haemorrhoids ^c	I84	74,285	16.3 (16.3)	40.1	14.5	17.5	19.0
104	Oesophageal varices (chronic), varicose veins of other sites, other disorders of veins, non-specific lymphadenitis, other non-infective disorders of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes and other and unspecified disorders of the circulatory system	I85–I99, except I89 and I95	15,194	3.3 (3.3)	52.6	2.2	3.9	6.1
J—Diseases of the respiratory system								
105	Respiratory allergy ^c	J30.1; J40–J47; J60–J84; J95, J97–J99	1,210,598	265.7 (266.3)	42.1	209.3	298.8	381.9
105A	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^c	J30, except J30.0	841,685	184.8 (185.2)	41.0	154.0	204.3	240.3
106	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic, simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis and unspecified chronic bronchitis	J40–J43, J47	418,120	91.8 (92.0)	39.8	57.8	112.8	156.3
107	Emphysema	J40–J42	12,790	2.8 (2.8)	43.6	0.4	3.5	11.3
108	Chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD) ^c	J43	5557	1.2 (1.2)	51.1	0.2	1.7	3.7
109	Asthma, status asthmaticus ^c	J44, J96, J13–J18	216,184	47.5 (47.6)	45.0	17.6	60.6	131.4
110	Bronchiectasis	J45–J46	361,129	79.3 (79.4)	42.1	64.2	86.5	118.4
111	Other diseases of the respiratory system	J47	4362	1.0 (1.0)	35.0	0.3	1.4	2.2
		J60–J84; J95, J97–J99	21,993	4.8 (4.9)	52.5	1.5	6.2	14.6
	K—Diseases of the digestive system	K25–K27; K40, K43, K50–52; K58–K59; K71–K77; K86–K87	329,337	72.3 (72.6)	44.7	41.3	86.3	157.4
112	Ulcers ^c	K25–K27	157,379	34.5 (34.8)	43.2	15.3	42.4	91.9
113	Inguinal hernia	K40	25,032	5.5 (5.5)	88.7	2.1	7.7	11.5
114	Ventral hernia	K43	7941	1.7 (1.7)	44.7	0.7	2.5	3.3

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
115	Crohn's disease	K50	18,913	4.2 (4.2)	41.4	4.4	4.1	3.4
116	Ulcerative colitis	K51	29,538	6.5 (6.5)	45.2	5.4	7.2	8.2
117	Other non-infective gastroenteritis and colitis	K52	20,844	4.6 (4.6)	35.5	2.6	5.0	12.8
118	Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)	K58	37,593	8.3 (8.3)	29.9	7.5	9.0	8.4
119	Other functional intestinal disorders	K59	51,933	11.4 (11.5)	37.0	6.5	11.8	34.1
120	Diseases of liver, biliary tract and pancreas	K71–K77; K86–K87	26,956	5.9 (6.0)	48.6	2.4	8.8	8.5
121	L—Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	L40	65,469	14.4 (14.5)	47.8	7.9	19.3	21.7
		L40	65,469	14.4 (14.5)	47.8	7.9	19.3	21.7
		M01–M25; M30–M36; M40–M54; M60.1–M99	1,032,808	226.7 (227.1)	42.2	113.2	291.2	470.5
122	Infectious arthropathies	M01–M03	9402	2.1 (2.1)	49.7	1.8	2.3	2.1
122A	Inflammatory polyarthropathies and ankylosing spondylitis ^c	M05–M14, M45	165,944	36.4 (36.5)	51.7	12.7	50.4	84.9
123	Rheumatoid arthritis ^c	M05, M06, M07.1, M07.2, M07.3, M08, M09	77,345	17.0 (17.0)	34.2	8.1	23.1	30.5
124	Inflammatory polyarthropathies – except rheumatoid arthritis ^c	M074–M079, M10–M14, M45	115,945	25.5 (25.5)	58.3	7.9	35.4	63.3
125	Polyarthrosis [arthrosis]	M15	16,935	3.7 (3.7)	20.8	0.2	5.4	12.6
126	Coxarthrosis [arthrosis of hip]	M16	104,115	22.9 (22.7)	43.3	2.0	26.8	108.1
127	Gonarthrosis [arthrosis of knee]	M17	178,811	39.3 (39.4)	44.2	5.0	58.6	113.5
128	Arthrosis of first carpometacarpal joint and other arthrosis	M18–M19	91,101	20.0 (20.1)	41.7	4.2	31.0	43.4
129	Acquired deformities of fingers and toes	M20	55,730	12.2 (12.3)	21.3	5.5	17.9	17.1
130	Other acquired deformities of limbs	M21	20,584	4.5 (4.5)	34.9	2.7	5.8	6.9
131	Disorders of patella (knee cap)	M22	38,999	8.6 (8.6)	38.0	13.7	5.0	0.6
132	Internal derangement of knee	M230, M231, M233, M235, M236, M238	9192	2.0 (2.0)	55.6	2.8	1.5	0.4
133	Derangement of meniscus due to old tear or injury	M232	36,374	8.0 (8.0)	53.6	6.9	10.2	2.5
134	Internal derangement of knee, unspecified	M239	28,206	6.2 (6.2)	50.0	6.9	6.3	2.3
135	Other specific joint derangements	M24, except M240–M241	5923	1.3 (1.3)	57.2	1.9	0.9	0.5
136	Other joint disorders, not elsewhere classified	M25	12,043	2.6 (2.7)	34.7	2.3	3.1	1.9
137	Systemic connective tissue disorders	M30–M36, except M32,M34	42,631	9.4 (9.4)	24.7	4.2	10.0	32.3
138	Systemic lupus erythematosus	M32	3376	0.7 (0.7)	12.9	0.5	1.0	0.7
139	Dermatopolymyositis	M33	1137	0.2 (0.2)	39.8	0.1	0.4	0.4
140	Systemic sclerosis	M34	1675	0.4 (0.4)	21.0	0.1	0.6	0.5

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
141	Kyphosis, lordosis	M40	4160	0.9 (0.9)	47.7	0.7	1.1	0.7
142	Scoliosis	M41	17,686	3.9 (3.9)	31.9	5.0	2.7	4.3
143	Spinal osteochondrosis	M42	8034	1.8 (1.8)	63.4	1.4	2.2	1.0
144	Other deforming dorsopathies	M43	23,756	5.2 (5.3)	42.4	2.2	7.3	9.9
145	Other inflammatory spondylopathies	M46	7086	1.6 (1.6)	45.5	1.1	1.9	2.0
146	Spondylosis	M47	61,999	13.6 (13.6)	45.9	2.4	21.2	31.4
147	Other spondylopathies and spondylopathies in diseases classified elsewhere	M48, M49	50,805	11.2 (11.2)	44.8	1.1	14.7	43.7
148	Cervical disc disorders	M50	11,476	2.5 (2.5)	46.4	1.5	3.8	1.2
149	Other intervertebral disc disorders	M51	40,161	8.8 (8.9)	49.4	6.4	11.4	7.6
150	Other dorsopathies, not elsewhere classified	M53	7246	1.6 (1.6)	40.9	1.4	1.9	1.2
151	Dorsalgia	M54	40,780	9.0 (9.0)	42.9	7.3	10.0	11.9
152	Soft tissue disorders	M60–M63, except M60.0	13,422	2.9 (3.0)	28.6	3.2	2.8	2.4
153	Synovitis and tenosynovitis	M65	19,104	4.2 (4.2)	37.5	3.1	5.4	3.8
154	Disorders of synovium and tendon	M66–68	19,669	4.3 (4.3)	41.7	4.7	4.3	2.1
155	Soft tissue disorders related to use, overuse and pressure	M70	11,090	2.4 (2.4)	42.4	1.6	3.0	3.4
156	Fibroblastic disorders	M72	43,600	9.6 (9.6)	63.7	2.3	14.2	22.6
157	Shoulder lesions	M75	58,112	12.8 (12.7)	50.3	7.2	19.0	8.6
158	Enthesopathies of lower limb, excluding foot	M76	11,223	2.5 (2.5)	49.4	2.7	2.6	0.9
159	Other enthesopathies	M77	10,500	2.3 (2.3)	40.4	1.9	2.9	1.0
160	Rheumatism, unspecified	M790	6852	1.5 (1.5)	13.7	0.7	2.3	1.2
161	Myalgia	M791	10,168	2.2 (2.2)	36.8	1.4	2.9	3.0
162	Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified	M792–M794; M798–M799	7939	1.7 (1.7)	36.9	1.5	2.0	1.7
163	Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified: pain in limb	M796	22,201	4.9 (4.9)	41.5	3.9	5.5	6.7
164	Fibromyalgia	M797	3399	0.7 (0.7)	4.5	0.6	1.0	0.3
165	Osteoporosis ^c	M80–M81	158,813	34.9 (34.8)	15.3	0.7	43.5	163.6
166	Osteoporosis in diseases classified elsewhere	M82	1007	0.2 (0.2)	35.2	0.1	0.3	0.7
167	Adult osteomalacia and other disorders of bone density and structure	M83, M85, except M833	43,271	9.5 (9.5)	19.2	1.9	14.4	22.7
168	Disorders of continuity of bone	M84	1865	0.4 (0.4)	51.6	0.3	0.5	0.5
169	Other osteopathies	M86–M90	24,251	5.3 (5.3)	38.4	2.2	7.0	12.4

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
170	Other disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	M95–M99	30,038	6.6 (6.6)	52.1	5.4	7.4	8.2
	N—Diseases of the genitourinary system	N18	20,162	4.4 (4.5)	59.4	1.0	4.8	20.0
171	Chronic renal failure (CRF) ^c	N18	20,162	4.4 (4.5)	59.4	1.0	4.8	20.0
	Q—Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	Q00–Q56; Q60–Q99	124,898	27.4 (27.5)	41.7	33.9	23.2	16.2
172	Congenital malformations: of the nervous, circulatory and respiratory systems, cleft palate and cleft lip, urinary tract, bones and muscles, other and chromosomal abnormalities not elsewhere classified	Q00–Q07; Q20–Q37; Q60–Q99	85,534	18.8 (18.9)	37.8	23.7	15.6	9.8
173	Congenital malformations of eye, ear, face and neck	Q10–Q18	19,689	4.3 (4.3)	38.8	6.2	3.0	1.8
174	Other congenital malformations of the digestive system	Q38–Q45	6481	1.4 (1.4)	41.8	1.0	1.6	2.9
175	Congenital malformations of the sexual organs	Q50–Q56	16,192	3.6 (3.6)	64.3	4.1	3.3	1.9
	F—Mental and behavioural disorders	F00–99	683,194	150.0 (150.7)	41.0	135.2	150.2	223.7
176	Dementia ^c	F00, G30, F01, F02.0, F03.9, G31.8B, G31.8E, G31.9, G31.0B	36,803	8.1 (8.1)	36.3	0.0	3.7	71.7
177	Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders	F04–F09	26,430	5.8 (5.9)	48.8	2.5	5.8	22.6
178	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10	59,143	13.0 (13.2)	67.0	9.4	17.5	7.9
179	Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use	F11–F19	53,669	11.8 (11.9)	54.2	13.3	11.2	7.2
180	Schizophrenia ^c	F20	29,422	6.5 (6.5)	58.2	7.1	6.6	2.2
181	Schizotypal and delusional disorders	F21–F29	39,694	8.7 (8.8)	50.3	9.2	8.7	6.2
182	Bipolar affective disorder ^c	F30–F31	22,669	5.0 (5.0)	40.6	3.6	6.2	5.7
183	Depression ^c	F32, F33, F34.1, F06.32	454,933	99.9 (100.2)	35.5	79.1	107.5	165.8
184	Mood (affective) disorders	F340, F348–F349, F38–F39	6887	1.5 (1.5)	35.9	1.3	1.6	1.7
185	Phobic anxiety disorders	F40	14,324	3.1 (3.2)	33.4	5.0	1.9	0.3
186	Other anxiety disorders	F41	38,079	8.4 (8.4)	32.6	10.0	7.3	5.3
187	Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) ^c	F42	10,062	2.2 (2.2)	36.7	3.8	1.0	0.5
188	Post-traumatic stress disorder	F431	16,055	3.5 (3.6)	48.6	3.9	3.8	0.4
189	Reactions to severe stress and adjustment disorders	F432–F439	61,701	13.5 (13.7)	39.1	18.6	10.4	4.4
190	Dissociative (conversion) disorders, somatoform disorders and other neurotic disorders	F44, F45, F48	21,420	4.7 (4.7)	31.7	4.6	5.2	3.1

Table 3 (continued)

No.	Name of condition	ICD-10 code/definition	Number and prevalence					
			Denmark		Men Per cent	Age 16–44 (per 1000)	Age 45–74 (per 1000)	Age 75+ (per 1000)
			N	Per 1000 (standardised)				
191	Eating disorders	F50	7751	1.7 (1.7)	5.2	3.5	0.3	0.1
192	Behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors	F51–F59	6163	1.4 (1.3)	46.3	1.9	1.0	0.3
193	Emotionally unstable personality disorder	F603	21,848	4.8 (4.9)	21.2	7.7	2.8	0.2
194	Specific personality disorders	F602, F604–F609	50,415	11.1 (11.2)	39.3	14.4	9.4	2.7
195	Disorders of adult personality and behaviour	F61–F69	17,533	3.8 (3.9)	44.3	5.0	3.3	0.7
196	Mental retardation	F70–F79	13,822	3.0 (3.1)	53.9	3.8	2.6	1.2
197	Disorders of psychological development	F80–F89	9911	2.2 (2.2)	65.4	4.1	0.6	0.3
198	Hyperkinetic disorders (ADHD) ^c	F90	42,908	9.4 (9.5)	60.6	17.1	3.5	1.0
199	Behavioural and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence	F91–F99	39,602	8.7 (8.8)	48.3	11.8	6.6	3.7
Having one or more chronic conditions			2,989,441	656.2 (657.2)	45.5	480.5	771.5	953.9

Standardised rates in brackets

See table with 10-year age intervals in Supplementary Material 2 in the electronic supplementary material

Conditions marked 'A', overlap with other conditions and are thus not counted twice [44]

ICD-10 International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision

^c Complex defined conditions; see reference for further details [44]

** 2-year prevalence

and private healthcare. Several limitations exist, however, one being the obvious fact that being treated for a chronic condition is not necessarily the same as being truly ill. There may be cases of defensive medicine or patients being treated on suspicion of a chronic disease, or even wrong (over-) diagnosis.

As found in previous studies, one of the main limitations of register studies in general is the opposite, i.e. not being able to identify either chronic patients who have not been treated or diagnosed at any time or patients with self-treated conditions, who consequently are not reported in hospital or other registers (i.e. data source limitations, etc.) [44, 55]. This may lead to under-reporting of some less severe chronic conditions, such as asthma, allergies, COPD and type 2 diabetes, which are mostly treated in primary care where there is no reporting of diagnoses. The same might apply for other conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts, age-related hearing loss, other eye and ear conditions, and less severe mental conditions that are untreated, such as mild forms of depression or anxiety [44]. Thus, differences in the present study are compared with the national self-reported prevalence rates for 2013 for 18 broadly defined conditions where possible, since they cover a wide range of conditions of importance for assessment [6]. In comparison, differences and limitations of register-based definitions might be found within four of the 18 conditions: osteoarthritis, migraine/headache, tinnitus and cataracts. These conditions are discussed in more detail in Supplementary Material 3. All in all, these register-based less severe conditions may not be sufficiently estimated at this time, which is why register-based prevalence will be underestimated and should be used with caution.

While some estimated conditions show limitations compared to self-reported conditions, most other conditions, such as hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes, COPD, bronchitis and other lung diseases, cancers, heart condition and stroke, all have higher or slightly higher register-based than self-reported prevalence [6], as well as estimates in line with other studies [7, 10, 33, 55, 56]. The same applies to mental conditions overall, which typically have a lower survey response [57], which could explain the lower self-reported prevalence. Added to the fact that these estimates are free of self-reported bias, this clearly strengthens the reliability of most register-based conditions reported, not to mention the enhanced precision of doctor-reported diagnoses.

However, similar to non-registration issues in community-based surveys, misclassification issues also exist in register studies as sources of bias. Reasons for this include different coding practices between hospitals [30], different access to specialists, clinical disagreements, different clinical and administrative practices and interpretation of the ICD-10 criteria [58]. However, we do not have evidence

of systemic misclassification. On the contrary, studies have validated reported diagnoses from registers for several psychiatric and somatic conditions, with good overall results [55, 59–64]. Nevertheless, the estimates of some complex aetiology, ill-defined and debated rheumatoid conditions such as fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome, even though common, should be used with caution since they are clearly under-reported compared to other studies [58, 65, 66]. Further discussion and references regarding the validity of diagnosis codes in registers can be found elsewhere [44].

In summary, the prevalence of some less severe conditions may be underestimated in register studies [55]. On the other hand, community-based self-reported studies may underestimate, especially, the more severe conditions due to, among other things, non-responders as well as people living in institutions or jails, homeless people, and those currently in inpatient treatment. Existing studies have already shown varying or poor overlap between self-reports and hospital reports [67], some concluding that the use of self-reports is less reliable in cases of, for example, stroke and ischaemic heart disease [68, 69], while severe conditions [67] such as cancers cannot reliably be self-diagnosed. Thus, a strength of the current study is that moderate or severe conditions are estimated more accurately and are naturally free of the bias of self-reported conditions. From this perspective, community-based survey studies contrast with and complement register studies [55].

Another strength of the study is that the definitions used were evaluated by epidemiologists and clinicians to strengthen reliability and provide the best possible representation [44]. In addition, the long register time periods are noticeable strengths compared to other register studies [7, 24, 26, 29–31]. Lastly, the use of a complete population of 4,555,439 people, not to mention the large number of ICD-10 doctor-reported conditions included, is another strength not or rarely seen in other studies.

4.2 Implications

Existing international register studies usually help determine current disease burden with implications for, for example, the funding of new treatments or others—but usually not multiple conditions [70–72].

The prevalence estimates of the current study provide unbiased, independent important basic information regarding the burden of disease for use in healthcare planning, as well as economic, aetiological and other research for a broad range of conditions. As it is based on uniform methodology within a single study, it also makes reliable comparisons, contrary to most existing studies. In many types of health economic studies, such as analyses of cost of illness and the budgetary consequences of the introduction of new health

technologies, economic calculations may not provide an accurate, reliable picture if based on invalid information. This comprehensive catalogue of prevalence information of nationwide chronic conditions enables comprehensive comparisons of chronic diseases for policymakers, patient associations and researchers. Thus, it may serve as an off-the-shelf tool for decision makers and researchers for health economic modelling.

4.3 Future Studies

The World Health Organization (WHO) have recommended further improvement in data surveillance of chronic conditions worldwide [17]; in addition, other studies have criticised, as well as recommended, methodological improvements [73–76]. Future studies should compare these prevalence rates based on actual patient pathways and registrations of treatment with other methods for estimating disease prevalence. Future studies could also focus on the development over time of disease burden, including the newest register data and analysis of possible trends in diagnosis or possible over-diagnosis. Moreover, while there are several studies exploring the coherence between self-reported conditions and hospital records, we found no studies assessing whether less severe self-reported conditions are more accurately estimated than register-reported conditions. Further studies should be carried out to assess whether chosen less severe self-reported conditions are estimated accurately, and if so, how register and self-reported study designs could best complement each other and for which conditions.

5 Conclusions

The current study provides a catalogue of prevalence for 199 different doctor-reported chronic conditions and groups of conditions by gender, based on a complete nationwide population sample.

To the best of the authors' knowledge, this study provides the most comprehensive descriptive register study of the prevalence of treatment of chronic conditions. Hence, the overall prevalence rate found is higher than that found in several previous studies, indicating that almost two-thirds of the entire Danish population aged 16 years or above either have a hospital diagnosis and/or are in medical treatment for one or more chronic condition.

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Data Availability Statement Due to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Danish data protection laws, it is not possible to provide the individually based, personal data of the current study directly. However, researchers can apply to Statistics Denmark for access to the data described in the “Methods” section. Thus, the same data of the current study can be provided via Statistics Denmark if the applicant fulfils legal and other requirements. See <https://www.dst.dk/da/TilSalg/Forskningsservice>. Software codes can be provided by the author when relevant, and data can be legally accessed, etc.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

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